GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2786
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2015
Indians in Foreign Prisons
Solanki Dr. Kirit Premjibhai

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several Indian citizens are still in foreign prisons even after the completion of their sentence;

(b) if so, the details thereof, country-wise;

(c) whether the Government has taken any step to bring them back to the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Government had identified those prisoners and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) & (b) Due to the strict provisions of their privacy laws, many Western countries do not share information about foreign nationals who are in their jails. However, as per information available with our Missions/Posts abroad, 446 Indian nationals are in prisons/deportation centres in five countries i.e. Bahrain (7), Bangladesh (18), Malaysia (246), Pakistan (174) and Syria (1), even after completion of their sentences.

(c) to (e) Our Missions/Posts regularly take up with the respective foreign governments the early release of Indian prisoners who have completed their sentences. Steps taken by Indian Missions/Posts also include visiting the detained/arrested Indian nationals to know their well-being, ensuring fair and humane treatment in foreign jails/detention centres and providing humanitarian assistance wherever necessary. After confirmation of Indian nationality, Indian Missions/Posts issue appropriate travel documents where necessary and also provide air tickets in deserving cases, for the return of such Indian nationals to India.